United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Southern Region News Release
Honey Bee Colonies

Cooperating with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and South Carolina Department of Agriculture
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This report contains the results from the **2019 and 2020 Quarterly Colony Loss Surveys**. Thanks to all who responded.

August 4, 2020 *Media Contact: Anthony Prillaman*

January 1 Honey Bee Colonies Up 8 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies

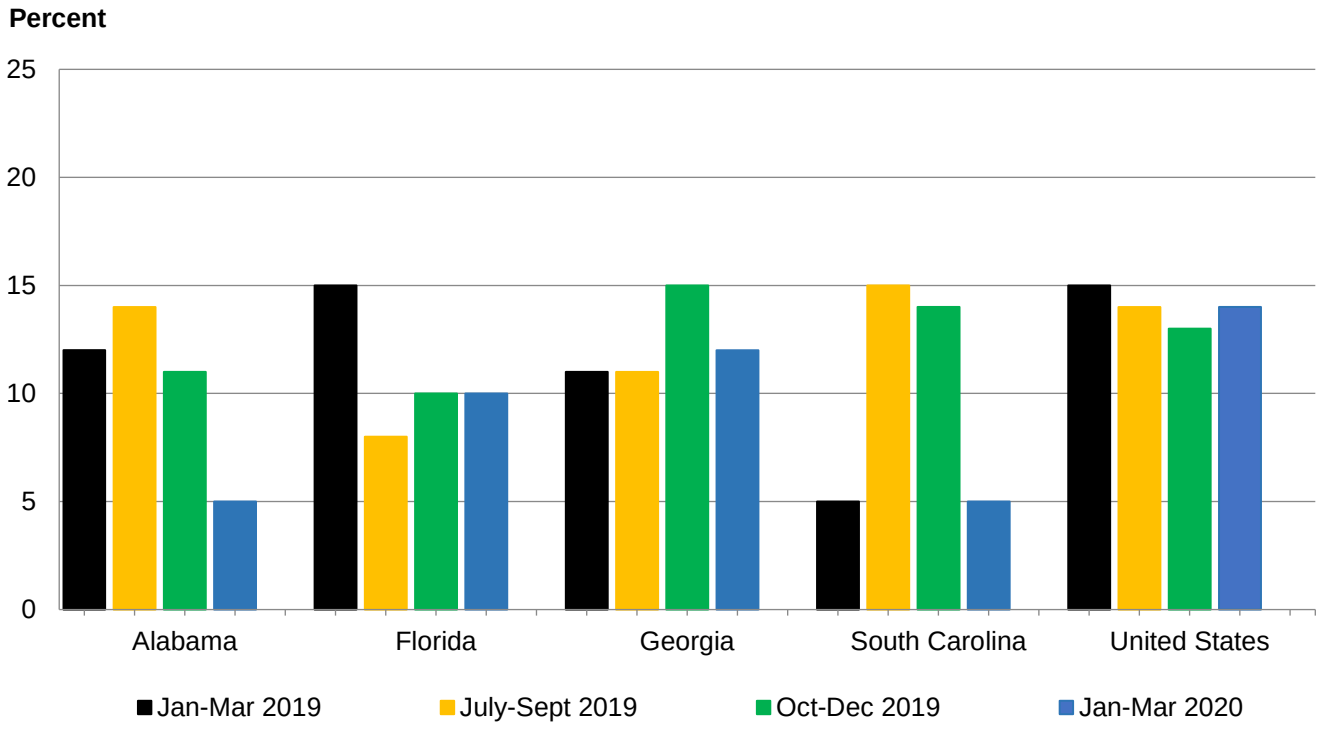
Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2020 totaled 2.88 million colonies, up 8 percent from January 1, 2019. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2020 was 2.98 million colonies. During 2019, honey bee colonies on January 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.67 million, 3.18 million, and 3.02 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2020, was 399,570 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2020 was 252,630 colonies, or 8 percent. During the quarter of July through September 2019, colonies lost totaled 434,700 colonies, or 14 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2019. The quarter surveyed in 2019 with the lowest number of colonies lost was October through December, with 399,510 colonies lost, or 13 percent.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2019. The quarter of October through December 2019 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 45.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2020 and April through June 2020 are 25.5 percent and 42.3 percent respectively.

Percent Colony Loss by Quarter – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

[Data collection for April-June 2019 quarterly honey bee colonies was suspended.]



Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020 and January-March 2019 and 2020

State	January 1 number of colonies	January-March					
		Maximum colonies [1]	Lost colonies	Percent lost [2]	Added colonies	Renovated colonies [3]	Percent Renovated [4]
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
2019							
Alabama	5,500	5,500	650	12	800	200	4
Florida	300,000	315,000	46,000	15	41,000	16,500	5
Georgia	120,000	129,000	14,500	11	19,500	8,000	6
South Carolina	12,000	13,000	690	5	2,000	340	3
United States	2,671,470	(X)	407,700	15	247,710	179,500	7
2020							
Alabama	5,500	8,000	410	5	1,000	780	10
Florida	295,000	310,000	30,000	10	41,000	8,000	3
Georgia	115,000	121,000	14,500	12	32,000	22,000	18
South Carolina	13,000	16,500	800	5	3,500	1,100	7
United States	2,876,100	(X)	399,570	14	477,200	153,390	5

(X) Not applicable.
[1] January 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into that state during the quarter.
[2] Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies except for United States, where percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the January 1 number of colonies.
[3] Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.
[4] Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies except for the United States, where percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by the January 1 number of colonies.
Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - *Honey Bee Colonies*, August 2020

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January-March 2019 and 2020

[Percent of colonies affected by stressors anytime during the quarter. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors during the quarter]

State	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites [1]	Diseases [2]	Pesticides	Other [3]	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
2019						
Alabama	27.2	22.7	1.8	0.3	3.1	9.0
Florida	46.9	24.8	5.5	22.9	7.4	5.5
Georgia	69.6	17.8	7.4	9.6	10.6	4.9
South Carolina	18.5	14.5	(Z)	1.7	12.4	1.0
United States	45.6	14.8	7.1	13.6	9.0	5.2
2020						
Alabama	12.4	3.4	(Z)	0.1	1.7	4.3
Florida	28.0	14.2	5.5	5.3	8.7	10.9
Georgia	50.9	3.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	7.5
South Carolina	15.5	11.5	9.6	0.3	6.4	5.4
United States	25.5	8.0	4.4	5.0	5.6	5.4

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.
[1] Tracheal mites, nosema, hive beetle, wax moths, etc.
[2] Includes American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.
[3] Includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.
Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - *Honey Bee Colonies*, August 2020